

Idaho Logging Safety News

*Volume 26 Number 2
June 2015*



Published quarterly in the interest of logging safety by the
Division of Building Safety, Logging Safety Bureau

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Suzy Kludt, Editor

LOGGING INDUSTRY TAKES SAFETY TRAINING SERIOUS

I just want to take this time to ***THANK ALL THE LOGGERS*** for not only taking the time to attend the yearly safety classes, but for the professional attitude they have in doing so. Over the years I have witnessed a swing from "Oh man, do I have to go" to "This safety stuff is important so lets get it right"!

This is proven by the work you do out in the woods, from your emergency rescue plan to doing your job as safely as possible, which the accident rates show! I think people with little knowledge of the logging industry don't really understand the effort and expertise it takes to get those logs to town, but I do, and I am darn proud to be associated with you all.

Thanks again, and keep up the good work! Galen



NATE SANCHEZ works out of the Moscow ***Les Schwabs*** and delivered a whole pile of delicious donuts. When questioned about the crumbs on his jacket ***NATE*** told us he sampled a few just to make sure they were ***SAFE*** for the loggers!

A HUGE THANKS to ***WESTERN STATES, LES SCHWABS*** and ***WESTERN TRAILER*** for supplying us with donuts (and in some places breakfast) for our Loggers Safety Classes! Also, thanks to the Associated Logging Contractors for picking up the tab for the buildings.



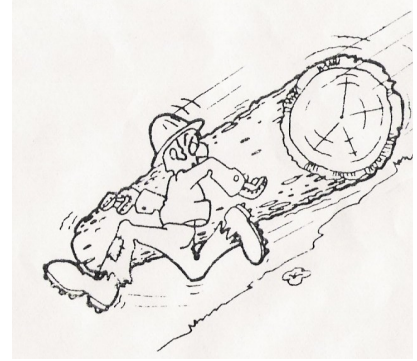
Western States product support sales rep ***CHRIS STEVENS*** stayed busy slapping Stan and Terry's hands telling them that his CAT donuts were for the loggers!

In this issue: Working in hot weather, Being Prepared for a Fire, Safety Meeting Ideas and much more!

TALK ABOUT YOUR “NEAR MISS”

By Monte Biggers

Discussing *near misses* with fellow workers can be an important accident prevention tool. Letting the crew know about a near miss you've had could prevent someone else from making the same mistake and getting hurt.



During your safety meeting is a good time to discuss near misses that have happened since the last meeting. Often times near misses go unreported so maybe whomever is conducting the meeting should ask if anyone has had one they would like to talk about. If you discuss a near miss be sure to write it down on your safety meeting form and document it.

It doesn't have to be a recent near miss either. If you see someone doing something in a way that has almost gotten you hurt in the past, point it out to them. Near misses and minor accidents sometimes are only a hair away from being something much more serious. Lets share the knowledge and maybe prevent an accident.

A SMALL TIME INVESTMENT OPENS SOME BIG DOORS!

By Stan Leach

Those of you who attended this years first-aid classes around the state received some very valuable training. The *Emergency Rescue* section that covers contacting state comm. and the dispatching of ground and air ambulances is unique to our industry.

With that training we are allowed to request an air ambulance to respond to a logging accident. That's a pretty good stroke of business if you think about it. They will send a *four million dollar* ship out to rescue your crewmember just on your request because you have been trained and work in the logging industry! In the event you need the long line helicopter they will send a *six million dollar* ship that is equipped with over *two million dollars* of specialized equipment to rescue the injured person.

Most of you loggers are working a long way from town and medical help. Helicopter transport in the event of a major injury is the best way to give the patient the best chance of survival. Having the training and ability to call for a helicopter is a major asset for our industry.

I hope that you all appreciate what a small time investment on your part buys you. Helicopter rescue and free donuts....it doesn't get much better than that!



“I LOVE LOGGING”

By Terry Streeter

This is 36 year old Chris Owens of Alpine Timber Harvesting in Sandpoint. He was working away in his 425 Timco with a 622b Waratah processing head. He was partnering up with Cramer Logging, also of Sandpoint, at the time I was on their job.

The special part of this is Chris is a Paraplegic and is paralyzed from the lower chest down.

I was watching him work when John Cramer walked up. We were talking when he told me of Chris's condition and I thought, *“how can that be, he is doing a great job”*.

Chris was hurt in the timber industry in 2009 while felling a tree witch broke his back.

After about a year of Rehab he wanted to get back to work at something. Chris did some chainsaw repair work for a while, but it was not what he wanted. He wanted to get back in the woods.

He bought the Timco and modified the machine by bolting levers to the pedals so he could run the travel with his hands and went to work.

That is unbelievable ambition and you have to respect his *drive* to get back to what he loves.....

LOGGING.



CHRIS OWENS at work in his processor. *He gets into and out of the machine by using a block and tackle he rigged to pull himself up to the controls. By the way, I wouldn't want to arm wrestle Chris!!!!*



TIM JONES, TYLER HOWARD, RICHARD HANSEN and JOHN HOWARD look over the new back board that **HANSEN LOGGING** put together. *They loaded this baby with everything you would ever need in case of an accident.*

First-Aid kit, blood-borne pathogen kit, blankets and more; they then put it in a water/dust proof container and they are set to go.

One more example of Idaho Loggers going “above and beyond” the requirements.

Idaho Minimum Standard for Logging: A stretcher or spine board (designed for and/or adaptable to the work location an terrain) and two blankets kept in sanitary and serviceable condition shall be available where such conditions are a factor in the proper transportation of, and first aid to, an injured workman.

A FATHER'S NIGHTMARE!

By Stan Leach

You have all heard us safety guys telling you about keeping some Benadryl in your rigs in case of a reaction to bee stings. The following is a story of how a couple of little pills put an end to a father's nightmare.

My son turned ten last year, went through hunter's ed and was ready to hunt deer and elk this fall. We went out to camp the day before the opening day, helped set up camp, and cut enough wood to last the guys all week. With a couple hours of daylight left we went out to see if we could get a grouse for dinner. We soon spotted one and were maneuvering around to get a good shot. When my son stopped to shoot he was standing right on top of a hornet's nest in the ground. They of course swarmed out and attacked him. I hollered at him to run and he took off up the hill. At this point I was not being stung so I decided to reach down and grab the shotgun that my son had dropped. Bad idea! Having lost track of their younger and faster target the hornets mounted an attack on the older and slower one. They followed me all the way back up to the skid trail about thirty yards away. After I killed the last two that were inside my shirt stinging me I went over to check on my son. He had about fifteen welts all around his eyes, scalp, and down his arms.

In the past when stung, he has had some swelling but did not seem to be highly allergic. However, due to the number and location of the stings I wasn't going to take any chances. We raced back down to the pickup on the four-wheeler, about a ten minute ride. I had Benadryl in the pickup so I gave him some and wrapped a shirt soaked in the creek around his neck and had him lay back in the seat.

I took a minute to assess the situation. We were at least two and a half hours away from any medical help. No cell service, no big radio in my personal truck, and no one working close that did have one. I looked at my son who by now had his eyes beginning to swell shut, his ears were three times normal size, and hive like welts were beginning to form on his back. I put the truck in gear and we launched for town.

On the way in I kept talking to him about his favorite thing (machinery) hoping to keep him calm. I never told him of the possibility of his throat swelling but it was on my mind. I had him sip a little water to be sure he could swallow O.K. His face, neck, and arms were turning a bright red color and it was scaring the hell out of me. I tried to hide my fear and kept him talking.

After about thirty minutes of flying down the gravel road I began to notice a little softening in the angry red color of his face. At the forty-five minute mark the swelling in his ears was beginning to recede a little. When we hit an hour he was sitting upright and the welts on his back were gone, his heart rate had slowed and mine was a little better. By the time we got to town he was recovered enough that I took him home for the night. I gave him more Benadryl as per the directions on the package and by morning he only had one eye that was still noticeably swollen. We missed opening day this year but thanks to a couple little pills we'll have lots of years to chase elk around the hills of Idaho.

The cost of a box of Benadryl is around five dollars but the piece of mind it gives is priceless. As you guys are gearing up to go back to work don't forget to add a little protection against allergic reactions.



WORKING IN HOT WEATHER CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEMS

By Monte Biggers

We talk about heat exhaustion and heat stroke during our first aid classes but since it looks like it might be a dry, hot summer here are a few more tips.

Drink plenty of fluids! Doctors recommend at least 8 glasses of water a day and during high heat or really strenuous work periods, twice as much or at least 16 glasses a day should be consumed.

If you are not urinating or if the urine is dark yellow, you are not consuming enough fluids. Avoid caffeinated drinks because they can make you feel thirstier and are a diuretic that can waste the fluids you already have in your body. If possible at lunch time drink a sports drink that contains electrolytes or eat a banana or orange.

Keep an eye on each other and look for signs of heat exhaustion. Remember, a person can lose the ability to judge their own condition and work themselves into a heat stroke.

WE GOT A FIRE.....NOW WHAT!

As Monte's article mentions above, we could be looking at a *Dry, Hot* one this summer. We touched base with a local fire prevention person that is very knowledgeable about the logging industry and he gave us a few suggestions to pass along.

- 1. HAVE A PLAN (every crew member knows his job)***
- 2. WHO DO WE CALL (911 or the land owner or fire department? Check each time you move jobs)***
- 3. WHO IS GOING TO MAKE THE DECISIONS (probably the boss, but if he isn't there....)***
- 4. DESIGNATE EACH CREW MEMBER TO CERTAIN JOBS***
- 5. HAND TOOLS (know where the cache is and they are in good shape)***
- 6. DESIGNATE A PERSON TO CHECK EQUIPMENT REGULARLY (start the pumper now and then)***
- 7. GOAL IS TO CATCH A FIRE WHEN IT IS SMALL***

*At their recent annual company safety and start-up meeting, **DABCO LOGGING** brought along one of the water pumpers. As mentioned above, the intention was to make sure all their crew was familiar with the operation of the fire fighting equipment.*

After getting it running, Rick Christopherson continued the training by showing everyone how to spray the timber fallers. The skidding crew seemed to enjoy that part of the training the most!



RIGHT-OF-WAY HAZARDS

By Stan Leach

I'm starting to see an alarming trend developing along new road R-O-W's. In several cases the cleared width for the road is so narrow that the brush ends up getting pushed out into the standing timber. This creates a deadly hazard for the crews that come along to harvest the timber being accessed by the road. Imagine walking up to a tree that you need to fall that has ten to fifteen feet of brush and stumps piled up against it. If you try to cut it low to the ground you risk getting buried in an avalanche of material once the tree falls or at least ruining your new chain by sawing into the dirt that was ground into the back side that you can't see. If you try to climb out on top of the pile to cut the tree above the brush, you are working on horrible footing that could roll out from under you when the tree goes down or at the least keep you from getting safely away from the stump.

I talked to a sawyer who was in that exact situation. When the tree he was working on started to go he was trying to move across the pile to get in the clear. The falling tree hit the end of a small tree about sixteen feet long. The root was still attached and was in the brush pile. This caused the small tree to flip upright coming close enough to knock the hard hat off the sawyers head. That situation was bad enough, but as he looked on down the road he could see several more trees that were pushed to the point that they were leaning at a forty-five degree angle and hung up in the standing timber that had to be felled.

To be fair most of the road jobs are not like this, but I am seeing more of them than in the past. Now I know that you road construction contractors are under tremendous pressure to do more for less, and many times the lowest bid gets the work, but pushing brush out into the standing timber is an unacceptable practice.

If the job you are on doesn't have enough cleared width to pile the brush, talk to your contract supervisor. I've never met one yet that wasn't willing to give a little if presented with a valid safety concern. Logging is tough enough for the guys on the ground without new hazards being created. A wise man once told me a good logger thinks not just about what he is doing, but also about his impact on the guys doing the jobs behind him.



TIME GOES FAST

*For those lumberjacks that have been around for awhile, you may remember a couple of tiny kids I referred to as **"little brat girls"** that were in several of the safety training videos. When they turned up at the safety meeting in Emmett this year, logging contractor Mark Mahon's mouth fell open and asked, **"Are those the little brat Hamilton girls!"***

Pictured along with Molly Rose and Jenna Ann are your logging safety guys.

*Terry Streeter 446-4149
Monte Biggers 369-6631
Galen Hamilton 935-0401
Stan Leach 512-2354*

THINKING OF YOU

Over the years we have shied away from mentioning when someone in the logging industry passes away. We were always worried we would write about one person and not another, and that would cause bad feelings. I am going to make an exception in this newsletter.

This spring we lost a few members of the *Idaho Logging Family*. I used the word *family* because it is amazing how “close” loggers are. As an industry often times looked at as “non caring” and “just out for themselves”, that could not be further from the truth. When there is a tragedy, loggers physically feel the hurt from one end of Idaho to the other.

I just wanted to tell those grieving that they have support from their “*extended families*”. Of course those “*extended families*” are those spender wearing, hickory shirt types....but I don’t think that is a bad crowd to be with.

Our hearts and prayers are with you!

New Rules on Reporting Fatalities and Work Related Injuries

Effective January 1st 2015 you must report to OSHA :

- All work-related fatalities
- All work-related inpatient hospitalizations of one or more employees
- All work-related amputations
- All work-related losses of an eye

For any fatality that occurs within 30 days of a work-related incident, employers must report the event within 8 hours of finding out about it.

For any inpatient hospitalization, amputation, or eye loss that occurs within 24 hours of a work-related incident, employers must report the event within 24 hours of learning about it. An inpatient hospitalization is defined as a formal admission to the inpatient service of a hospital or clinic for care or treatment. Employers do not have to report an inpatient hospitalization if it was for diagnostic testing or observation only. The hospital or clinic makes the determination whether the patient was formally admitted or not. Employers do have to report an inpatient hospitalization due to a heart attack, if the heart attack resulted from a work-related incident.

Employers reporting a fatality, inpatient hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye to OSHA must report the following information:

- Establishment name
- Location of the work-related incident
- Time of the work-related incident
- Type of reportable event (i.e., fatality, inpatient hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye)
- Number of employees who suffered the event
- Names of the employees who suffered the event
- Contact person and his or her phone number
- Brief description of the work-related incident

You can report to OSHA by calling the closest area office during normal business hours, calling 1-800-321-6742 or online at www.osha.gov.

IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY NEWS
363 SHENANDOAH DR.
KAMIAH, IDAHO
83536

PRST-STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 32
OROFINO ID



The Idaho Logging Safety News

Is published quarterly by the Logging Safety Bureau

It is mailed to all logging companies in Idaho.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Call (208) 935-0401 or reach us online:

Idaho Logging Safety News, Logging Safety Bureau,
dbs.idaho.gov

Log Safe